

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 24, 2003, the Advisory Action of May 15, 2003, and the Advisory Action of July 8, 2003 have been received and their contents carefully reviewed. Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled and claims 5 - 11 have been amended. These amendments have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the application and are not intended to be an endorsement of the rejections. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the same or similar claims in subsequent applications. Claims 5 - 19 and 24 - 31 are currently pending in the application. Once again, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the examiner's statement that claims 17 - 19 and 24 - 31 are allowed.

Applicants would like to thank the examiner for conducting a telephonic interview with their representative on August 13, 2003. Applicants have canceled rejected claim 2 and incorporated the relevant limitations of that claim into claim 5, which the examiner has noted as presenting allowable subject matter. In addition, claims 6 - 11 have been amended to depend from amended claim 5.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently pending claims are patentably distinct from the applied and cited art. It is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider and withdraw all of the outstanding objections and rejections.

For the reasons set out above, it is respectfully requested that the examiner withdraw all of the pending rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all of the presently pending claims at the earliest possible time.

Applicants are also submitting proposed drawing corrections in a

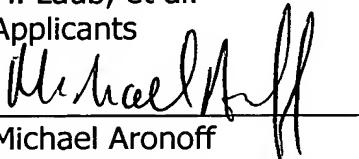
If the examiner has any questions regarding the presently pending claims which could be easily resolved by a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Laub, et al.

Applicants

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